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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/601,214	06/20/2003	Ying-Mo Lin	13823 B	7328

36672 7590 06/30/2004

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EXAMINER

THOMAS, DAVID B

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3723

DATE MAILED: 06/30/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/601,214

Applicant(s)

LIN, YING-MO

Examiner

David B. Thomas

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 20 June 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3 and 4 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 2 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 20 June 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date: _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

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DETAILED ACTION

Claim Objections

1. Claim 1 is objected to because of the following informalities: The closing line of claim 1 recites, "the retainer groove of the screwdriver bit". The examiner notes that although the language is a functional recitation of the intended use for the adapter, it would be preferable that the language be amended to "a retainer groove of a screwdriver bit." Also, the examiner suggests that the applicant review the claims to make appropriate grammatical corrections. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1, 3 and 4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wang (5,934,384) in view of Palm (5,333,523).

Wang ('384) discloses an adapter for a screwdriver having an elastic retainer ring comprising a sleeve, a slide ring, a spring and a retainer ring, the slide ring having a multi-stage hole with a inner cone ring at the front, a secondary inner ring and a big inner ring, the big inner ring having a chamfer, the sleeve having a hexagonal socket hole and an annular groove for engaging with a C-shaped ring, and the retainer ring having a flange for engaging with a retainer groove of a screwdriver bit. Wang ('384) discloses the claimed invention except that the flange of the retainer ring lies in the

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same plane of the ring rather than depending from the ring. Palm ('523) discloses an adapter for sockets and teaches that the tool utilizes a retainer ring having a depending flange for retaining a socket. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified the retainer ring of the adapter of Wang ('384) by providing a depending flange, such as that taught by Palm ('523), wherein the depending flange provides a subsequent spring force for properly engaging a screwdriver bit.

Allowable Subject Matter

4. Claim 2 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

5. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: It is the examiner's opinion that the prior art of record, either as a whole or in part, neither anticipates nor fairly suggests a retainer ring with a notch at both sides of the downward flange respectively, together in combination with the independent claim.

Conclusion

6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Cheng, Cheng-Tsan, Hsu, Kozak, Markwart et al., Palm, Wei, and Yen each disclose a retaining means for adapters for various tools.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to David B. Thomas whose telephone number is (703) 308-4250. The examiner can normally be reached on 7-4 M-F.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David B Thomas can be reached on (703) 308-4250. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



dbt



David B. Thomas
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 3723